



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, August 20, 2012

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-3917)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Patricia Curry, Vice Chair Genevra Berger, Vice Chair Dr. Sunny Kang, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, Commissioner Daphne Ng, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell and Commissioner Dr. Harriette F. Williams

Excused: Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Dr. La-Doris McClaney and Commissioner Sandra Rudnick

Call to Order. (12-3503)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:04 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of August 20, 2012 Meeting attendees. (12-3502)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the August 20, 2012 Meeting Agenda. (12-3501)

On motion of Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, seconded by Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Biondi, Franzen, McClaney, and Rudnick being absent), this item was approved. Vice Chair Kang and Commissioner Olivas were not present during vote taken for this item.

3. Approval of the minutes from the meetings of August 6, 2012, July 23, 2012 and July 9, 2012. (12-3356)

On motion of Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, seconded by Commissioner Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW, unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of August 6, 2012 were approved.

On motion of Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, seconded by Vice Chair Geneva Berger, unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of July 23, 2012 were approved.

On motion of Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, seconded by Commissioner Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW, unanimously carried, the minutes of the meeting of July 9, 2012 were approved.

Vice Chair Kang and Commissioner Olivas were not present during votes taken for this item.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT 08-06-12](#)
 [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT 07-23-12](#)
 [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT 07-09-12](#)

II. REPORT

4. Chair's report for August 20, 2012 by Patricia Curry, Chair. (12-3499)

Chair Curry presented the following verbal report:

- **A Brown Act Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration in the Board of Supervisors Hearing Room 381. If Commissioners are interested in attending they may contact Commission Staff and arrangements will be made for their attendance.**
- **The Commission is scheduled to meet only once in the month of September; the Special Commission meeting is scheduled for September 10, 2012. Commissioners and meeting attendees were reminded to notate their calendars accordingly.**
- **Chair Curry reviewed the Commission's website. She requested Commission Staff to remove outdated material and reorganize and update the website with current information. Chair Curry asked Commissioners to review their biographies posted on the website, and to submit changes they deem necessary to Commission Staff for updating.**

- The Commission's Annual Retreat is tentatively scheduled for October 15, 2012. Chair Curry asked Commissioners to "Save the Date."
- A copy of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Strategic Plan was provided to the Commission. DCFS is requesting Commission input by the end of August 2012. Chair Curry requested Commissioners to submit their input and comments on the DCFS Strategic Plan to her and she will submit Commission input/comments to DCFS.
- The Commission's annual election of officers will take place at the September 10, 2012 Special Commission meeting. Commissioner Trevino-Powell, Election Chair, has been communicating with Commissioners to poll their interest in serving as officers.
- About a week ago, Chair Curry received an e-mail from DCFS Director Browning regarding DCFS' Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP). DCFS indicated the issue of overnight stays of children under the age of 10 at the ERCP has been to some extent resolved. However, DCFS is still working to find solutions for overnight stays for the older children (children over the age of ten). One potential solution, yet to be determined, is utilizing an area within the Edelman Children's Courthouse as feasible space. Chair Curry expressed concern to Director Browning that this area may be inadequate for emergency overnight shelter. Chair Curry has been invited to participate in the ERCP Workgroup meetings; this group has been working on various strategies to resolve the issue of overnight stays. The next ERCP meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2012. Chair Curry will report information from this meeting at the following Commission meeting.

Commissioner Sorkin shared that approximately 6 years ago there were discussions about having a reception center similar to a center located in Northern California, which she and Russ Carr, DCFS, visited. Commissioner Sorkin noted that the Paramount Health District Office was identified as a potential site for a reception center; however, never evolved. A reception center is a good model for temporary emergency shelter for detained minors.

Commissioner Kleinberg noted that she too concurs that the Edelman Children's Court is not a feasible site for a reception center, and that reception centers should be strategically situated in a variety of areas throughout the County.

- Commissioner Sorkin reported that she attended a meeting hosted by the Department of Public Health (DPH) where the topic of discussion was the \$41 million, four-year grant, received by the DPH from First 5 LA to address childhood obesity. The first year will have three pilot projects for planning; followed by \$17 million to Community-Based Organizations for work within all Service Planning Areas (SPAs). Highest rate of obesity is identified among Latino and African American children. Commissioner Sorkin expressed concerns as to where the three pilot projects will be situated and questioned the methodology of the allocation of funds among the SPAs. Commissioner Sorkin noted that she plans to write a letter approved by the Commission to be sent to DPH addressing these concerns.

By common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

III. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

5. Discussion and approval of recommendation to have two Vice Chairs for the 2012-13 term of office, as permitted by the Commission for Children and Families Policies and Procedures (Bylaws and Operating Procedures).

- Patricia Curry, Chair (12-3792)

On motion of Chair Curry, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg, this item was duly carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Chair Patricia Curry, Vice Chair Genevra Berger, Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, Commissioner Daphne Ng, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW, Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell and Commissioner Dr. Harriette F. Williams

Noes: 2 - Vice Chair Dr. Sunny Kang and Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman

Absent: 4 - Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Dr. La-Doris McClaney and Commissioner Sandra Rudnick

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

6. Discussion and approval of a report titled, "Children/TAY Mental Health Workgroups' Suggested Discussion Points for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Structure, Budgeting, Evaluation and Oversight."
- Susan F. Friedman, Chair, Mental Health Transition Age Youth (TAY) Workgroup
 - Genevra Berger, Chair, Children's MHSA Workgroup (12-3859)

During discussion, the following changes were made to the report at the request of Commissioners Kleinberg and Sorkin:

Page 1, Paragraph 1 was changed to read as follows:

The Commission's Children/TAY Workgroups have been meeting with representatives from the Department of Mental Health (DMH) for approximately two years, ~~reviewing issues related to~~ **ensure that** children and TAY **are receiving adequate and accessible MHSA services**. During that time, there were a number of concerns that surfaced. For example, the percentage of MHSA funding allocated for children and TAY has decreased every year since 2005. **Also, there is confusion over whether the Systems Leadership Team's (SLT) role is advisory, oversight, and if SLT has the ability to approve funding and planning. In September 2012, DMH plans to develop a new MHSA plan. The Workgroups are concerned about a new plan being developed prior to these existing issues being resolved. Additionally, there is confusion over whether the Systems Leadership Team's (SLT) role is advisory or oversight, and if SLT has the ability to approve funding and planning.** These are only some of the concerns of the Workgroups. The following are issues that are beyond the scope of the Commission's resources, but nevertheless should be discussed and reviewed, **particularly in light of the most recent acts by the Governor and Legislature to shift significant responsibilities for mental health programs from the state to counties.**

On motion of Commissioner Helen Kleinberg, seconded by Commissioner Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW, unanimously carried, the report was approved with the changes noted above.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. PRESENTATIONS

7. Update by Department of Children and Families (DCFS) on child fatalities:

- Brandon Nichols, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS
- Francesca LeRúe, Acting Division Chief, Risk Management Division, DCFS (12-3506)

Ms. LeRúe advised that Mr. Nichols was unable to attend the meeting. She provided a handout titled, “In-Person Response Referrals and Child Fatality Data Summary” for 2011 and 2012 (updated as of April 11, 2012), and reported the following:

- Risk Management Division has two sections within the division that deal with child fatalities. These sections include Critical Incident Child Fatality and Senate Bill 39 (SB 39). A Board of Supervisors (Board) motion in October, 2011 requested the County to develop a mechanism which data on child fatalities can be comprehensively reported.
- DCFS is currently in the process of responding to the Board with the fourth quarter report on child fatalities and is working with the Department of Public Health to obtain data that is not limited to information within the DCFS system. The data obtained determined that there were 917 child fatalities in 2011. Of this amount, 360 had been previously reported to DCFS and 166 had prior history with DCFS. The information provided in the report is subject to change due to pending Coroner’s reports. The Coroner’s determination of the cause of death can take four to six months to be complete. At which point, the data in the Child Fatality report is reconciled.
- SB 39 has two categories that DCFS reports on. Subdivision “A” indicates that there is reasonable suspicion that the death occurred as a result of abuse or neglect. Subdivision “C” indicates that the death occurred due to abuse or neglect.
- In 2011, 18 of 78 deaths caused by abuse or neglect had a prior DCFS history. The findings indicate that male children die at a higher rate than female children and Hispanic children die at a higher rate. Of the 357 child deaths, 40 had an open case at the time of death and 69 had a prior case or referral.
- An Administrative Review Roundtable meeting is held when a child fatality occurs that falls within SB 39 Subdivision “C”. This review is a

multi-disciplinary approach with various parties involved to discuss the fatality and to identify practice, performance, operational and systemic issues. Systemic issues are evaluated to devise a system to be used for training Social Workers.

In response to questions and comments posed by the Commission regarding the categorization of data in the report provided and the length of time information is received from the Coroner's Office, Ms. LeRue responded with the following:

- Specific data is not yet available due to delays with the Coroner's Report that provides the mode of death. These reports can take four to six months. As a result of the Grand Jury report that was released in June, 2012, Ms. LeRue and Laura Shotzbarger, DCFS Risk Management Division, met with the Chief Coroner to discuss the development of protocol for handling child fatalities. A status update will be provided in regards to funding for additional employees at the Coroner's Office in order to expedite the length of time Coroner's reports are completed.
- DCFS will return at a later date with data that includes an age range of zero to three in order to show the number of child fatalities that occurred among children at a nonverbal stage. Information available from other agencies will be explored in order to capture and report data in terms of families that have been in contact with other agencies. The report that will be completed in September 2012 will also provide data on child fatalities that occurred among children of foster care youth. A child fatality comparison between the overall population and DCFS population using 2010 Census data was conducted and will be included in the forthcoming report.
- DCFS is working with the Coroner's Office to facilitate the training of staff on how to properly investigate a child fatality. In addition, there is training for Social Workers on forensic interviewing.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT 5/22/12](#)
 [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT 04/11/12](#)
 [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT 2/21/12](#)
 [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT 11/10/11](#)

8. Presentation on domestic sex trafficking of children and youth:

- Eric Marts, Deputy Director, Services Bureau 2, DCFS
- Emilio Mendoza, MART (Multi-Agency Response Team), DCFS
- Blanca Vega, Acting Regional Administrator, Compton Office, DCFS
- Michelle Guymon, Director, Placement Services Bureau, Probation Department
- Marian Thompson, Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney, Pasadena Juvenile Division (12-3587)

Ms. Thompson reported the following:

- **In 2010, Senate Bill 1279 was approved. This bill provided statutory authority to the District Attorney's Office to partner with other county agencies, law enforcement, and Community-Based Organizations on developing a diversion program to address the needs of domestic sex trafficked youth as well as create protocols and training for law enforcement to identify and assess trafficked youth upon arrest and detention.**
- **The District Attorney's Office created a multi-agency taskforce headed by Joseph Esposito, Director of the Bureau of Specialized Prosecutions for the Los Angeles County District Attorney. With approximately 99 percent of domestic trafficked youth being girls, the workgroup focused on developing a diversion program for girls. The "Diversion Program" was created incorporating input received from various county agencies and partners. The "Diversion Program" is a voluntary one-year program for youth that have been arrested and detained or cited. The Program allows children that are cited and not detained to be diverted without a case being filed against them, keeping them out of the juvenile delinquency system. Additionally, juvenile delinquency cases that have been filed are deferred for girls that are eligible and recommended for the "Diversion Program". Cases are dismissed after successful completion of the one-year Program.**
- **The Program's process includes a contract signed by the youth and guardian or parent to abide by the terms and conditions of the Program which are essentially for the rehabilitation of the child. Additionally, through a partnership with the Probation Department and Community-Based Organizations a required ten-week course titled, "My Life My Choice" was developed. The course curriculum is designed to empower adolescent girls most vulnerable to sexual exploitation.**

- A plan is underway to pilot the “Diversion Program” in the fall at two locations, the Sylmar Juvenile Court and a location yet to be determined in the South Central Compton area.

Ms. Guymon distributed a handout titled, “Los Angeles County Probation Department, Victim-Centered Response Team,” and reported the following:

- As a result of Probation’s participation in the ICAN (Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect) Los Angeles Committee, the Probation Department has been involved in the Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in Los Angeles Project since 2010.
- In 2010, Probation data on children in juvenile halls indicated that there were 174 girls in juvenile detention as a result of a prostitution-related offense. Of these, 84% were from Service Planning Areas (SPA) 6 or 8, 92% were African American and 59% were prior DCFS youth. In addition, the 18 to 24 year-old data showed that there were 2,351 females arrested for a prostitution offense.
- The average age of sex trafficked minors is between 12 to 14 years old. In 2011, as a result of outreach efforts within juvenile halls there were 37 girls that disclosed they were being exploited that had no history of being arrested for a prostitution-related charge. The findings suggest that the actual number of exploited girls is much larger than the data collected.
- In order to assist in the development of the “Diversion Program”, best practices from other jurisdictions throughout the United States were evaluated and incorporated into Probation’s efforts. As a prevention effort, Wraparound providers throughout the County were asked if they would be interested in hosting the “My Life My Choice” 10-week sessions, and almost every Wraparound provider expressed interest. The implementation of the curriculum was focused on SPA 6 and 8 providers. The first session was a success and positive feedback was received from the participants in the course. Of the 19 participants, 15 were DCFS referrals. The curriculum is primarily facilitated by an adult survivor of sex trafficking which has provided a positive impact on the participants of the program. Probation has recognized a positive difference in placement stability among older youth, partly attributed to the survivor mentorship relationship established.

- Additional efforts include partnering with DCFS and law enforcement on early identification and collaboration on placement decisions for exploited girls. The First 48 Detention Response requires a medical and mental health assessment to be conducted within the first 48 hours of the child being detained. This assessment and evaluation is being enhanced to better identify and assess the needs of these girls.
- Detention outreach and service efforts include 5-week workshops dedicated to sexual exploitation issues. Survivors and law enforcement participate in the workshops to educate the youth on the role of the trafficker. Through these efforts, there was an increase from two girls testifying against their trafficker last year, to 15 girls currently testifying.
- In terms of awareness and training, there are monthly trainings being conducted and facilitated by a survivor of sexual exploitation. Over the past six months, approximately 1,500 individuals have undergone the training. The trainings are open to the community.
- Through the Collaborative Court, there are weekly case reviews with a multi-disciplinary team. Assembly Bill 129 dual jurisdiction status is being utilized to keep youth in both DCFS and Probation systems in order to meet the needs of the youth.

Mr. Mendoza reported the following:

- Historically, sex trafficking predominately fell under federal jurisdiction. In 2008, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) informed ICAN that there was minimal being done for domestic minor sex trafficking. At that time, an ad hoc committee was formed with participants from various county agencies and partners. Currently, there are two subcommittees that were created from this ad hoc committee. Direct Services for Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is one of the subcommittees co-chaired with the FBI.
- Within DCFS, Multi-Agency Response Teams (MART) are utilized to rescue Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC). Investigations are being conducted on a local and state level. Innocence Lost Task Force headed by the FBI conducts specialized investigations and operations to crimes involving the victimization of children.

Mr. Marts introduced Anyika Sholes, DCFS presenting in place of Blanca Vega who was unable to attend the meeting and Erika Pollard from the Compton DCFS office.

Ms. Pollard shared her experience dealing with girls in the DCFS Compton office that were victims of domestic sex trafficking. She explained that some of the girls being targeted have no prior probation history. For that reason, oftentimes victims may be overlooked for intervention services since no history of probation exists. Additionally, DCFS is limited to services they are able to provide.

Ms. Sholes reported the following:

- The DCFS Compton Pilot Program was developed in 2010 as a result of foster youth being identified as victims of sexual exploitation. Originally, DCFS did not have the resources or understanding of how to provide specialized services for these youth. The Compton Team Taskforce was formed and the pilot program was developed to address these needs. Probation provided training to DCFS staff at the Compton office on how to deal with this population.**

In response to questions posed by the Commission, the presenters responded with the following:

- Ms. Guyman explained that the developers of “My Life My Choice” Program train staff to facilitate the sessions. A survivor of sex trafficking co-facilitates the sessions. Additionally, a change in legislation is needed to allow DCFS children to be detained in a closed facility in order to protect them from returning to their trafficker. Similar legislation is in place in other states that permits this. Ms. Guyman agreed to the Commission’s request to provide the breakdown of the origin of DCFS youth in juvenile detention as a result of a prostitution-related offense, available through the data captured by Probation.**
- Ms. Thompson stated that part of the “Diversion Program” is getting the victims in the position to testify against their trafficker. The role of law enforcement’s victim identification, and participation in educating these girls, is critical in achieving this. In terms of identifying girls that are at a high-risk for sexual exploitation, there are Community-Based Organizations that are offering training to school districts to increase their awareness. Youth that have had multiple runaways are at the highest risk.**

Mr. Marts added that there have been recent meetings discussing awareness and training on this issue and that he would return at a later date to discuss possible implementation of ideas that resulted from these meetings.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)
[SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

V. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

9. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-3498)

There were none.

Public Comment

10. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-3497)

Ms. Earline Owens, representing the Community Coalition addressed the Commission.

Announcement

11. Announcements for the meeting of August 20, 2012. (12-3494)

There were none.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment of the meeting of August 20, 2012. (12-3495)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.